

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 COLOMB 02720 311305Z

53

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-11 IO-14 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

ACDA-19 DRC-01 /120 W

----- 124030

O R 311245Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 193

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USMISSION USUN

CINCPAC

S E C R E T COLOMBO 2720

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR

SUBJ: SEVENTH FLEET TASK FORCE

REFS: COLOMBO 2695, COLOMBO 2704

1. I AM PERPLEXED RE HANDLING AND GUIDANCE ON DECISION TO
DEPLOY US NAVAL TASK FORCE IN INDIAN OCEAN, WHICH WE
FIRST LEARNED ABOUT IN YESTERDAYS WIRELESS FILE.

2. DEPT WILL RECALL THAT JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF IN
SEPT CANCELLED PLANNED VISIT OF SEVERAL SHIPS TO COLOMBO
ON GROUNDS SUCH VISIT "DURING GENERAL ASSEMBLY COULD WELL
PROVIDE A CATALYST FOR THE ADOPTION BY THE UN OF A STRONGER
AND MORE UNITED STAND IN FAVOR OF INDIAN OCEAN PEACE ZONE
(IOPSZ) THAN WOULD OTHERWISE BE THE CASE" (JCS MESSAGE 2620
DTG 071801Z SEP 73). HOWEVER, IN DENYING ANY CONNECTION
BETWEEN HANCOCK TASK FORCE AND MIDDLE EAST, DEPT OF
DEFENSE SPOKESMAN IS REPORTED IN TODAYS WIRELESS

SECRET

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FILE AS EXPLAINING THAT USG OPERATES FLEET UNITS FROM TIME

TO TIME IN INDIAN OCEAN AND THAT, SINCE HANCOCK HAD ALREADY
BEEN ALERTED AND WAS STILL SAILING IN THE GENERAL
VICINITY,
"IT SEEMED LIKE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR IT TO SPEND SOME TIME
IN THE INDIAN OCEAN."

3. WE HAVE TWICE REQUESTED FROM DEPT
BACKGROUND AND GUIDANCE RE DEPLOYMENT OF TASK FORCE BUT HAVE
RECEIVED NO RESPONSE. REQUEST STILL STANDS. TASK FORCE
DEPLOYMENT CONTINUES TO BE MAJOR PRESS STORY HERE.
VAN HOLLEN

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: NAVAL FORCES, TROOP DEPLOYMENT, WAR, NAVAL SHIPS
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS VAN HOLLEN
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: COLOMBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Office: ACTION NEA
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
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Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005